THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Suggestions to set up a modernization and technology up-gradation fund for paper have been received from various paper industry associations. The consultation-process for obtaining Planning Commission's in-principle concurrence for evolving a paper-technology up-gradation scheme has been initiated.

De-mining of landmines and traps

*254. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether landmines and boby traps are laid in the paths, villages and fruit orchids in Manipur resulting in loss of human lives and live stock;

(b) if so, the number of people killed during the uphill task of demining these landmines and traps till date; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Reports of the Improvised Explosive Devices/boby traps being laid in and around villages in Thanlon and Tipaimukh Sub-Divisions of Churachandpur district of Manipur, by Valley based underground outfits have been received. Since January, 2005 and till 20th February, 2006 the people killed and injured due to the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) blasts are as under:

Civilian killed	-	13
Civilian injured	-	54
SF personnel killed	-	14
SF personnel injured	-	25

(c) A total of 64 IEDs in 2005, and 82 in 2006 (upto 20.02.06) have been neutralized by the Army. State Government has been advised by the Ministry of Home Affairs to launch awareness campaign, in coordination with local media, to educate the populace with regard to the dangers of the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and take necessary measures of detect the same. State Government has also been advised

to sensitize the village functionaries and NGOs to undertake such a campaign in the interior areas of Chandel and Churachandpur districts. Army has also offered to train the police/CPOs personnel deployed in the area for detection/neutralization of IEDs.

Talks with ULFA and NDFB

*225. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BHAHMA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is stalemate in the peace process with United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another armed outfit namely, National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) is already under cease fire and expressed willingness for negotiated settlement; and

(d) if so, by when the formal talks are expected to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The people's Consultative Group (PCG) of Assam held two rounds of talks with the Government on 26.10.05 and 7.2.06. During second round of talks on 7.2.06, it was agreed that another round of talks with PCG will be held as early as possible, before the commencement of the talks with the United Liberation Front of Assam.

(c) and (d) An agreement for Suspension of Operation (SoO) *w.e.f.* June 1, 2005 for one year has been signed between the Government of India, Government of Assam and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). NDFB has yet to submit its charter of demand to the Government. It is therefore premature to indicate the timeframe for formal talks with NDFB.

Need to broadbase the committee set up for stamping and marking

*256. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: